

MTA-6005

1 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- May 1985

I. GENERAL

The bureau was evacuated on 13 May due to a bomb hoax and on 22 May due to a bomb threat.

II. OPERATIONAL

A. Monitorial/Editorial

HEBREW SECTION

It was a busy month for the Hebrew section. First came Secretary of State Shultz' visit to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory over nazism. Most reportage and commentary concentrated on the possible talks involving a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Although limited attention was paid to the Histadrut election, the Alignment victory of 69.3% against 23.5% for Likud, has encouraged the Labor faction in the government to press for tougher economic measures. No doubt such measures are needed as indicated by the shocking consumer price index which went up 19.4%, forcing the Cabinet into a marathon session but one that produced surprisingly limited economic measures.

A potential threat to the government's existence may arise from the exchange of the 1,150 so-called "terrorists" for 3 Israeli POW's. There were considerable rumblings about the wisdom of the exchange and there were increasing calls for the release of Israel's own Jewish Underground prisoners.

A flap arose over Ambassador Lewis' remarks during an interview on the Moqed program. According to the ambassador, former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon had revealed to Ambassador Habib in late 1981 "hypothetical" plans to invade Lebanon to counter the PLO. The plan indicated IDF intentions to advance as far as Beirut. Habib had registered shocked reaction to any such intention.

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The month ended with some confusion over U.S. policy concerning an international conference on the Middle East but there was no doubt that both the prime minister and the foreign minister are opposed to an international conference involving the Soviet Union.

TURKISH SECTION

The Turkish section was kept busy with the referendum on the new constitution for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Egyptian President Mubarak's visit to Turkey, Prime Minister Ozal's visit to Japan and Singapore, and the still festering problem of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

B. Communications

Bureau upgraded its communications circuit to 150 baud effective 1 May.

C. Lateral Services

Hebrew section texted Prime Minister Peres' 6 May address to the Knesset for Ambassador Lewis.

Embassy public affairs officer asked that all filed material on Secretary of State Shultz's visit be sent to the consulate in Jerusalem from 9 to 12 May. Acting Political Counselor Joe Sullivan expressed appreciation for the "terrific job" done by the bureau during Shultz's visit.

On 15 May DCM Robert Flaten called to say "well done" and thank you for the bureau's expeditious filing of a Schiffer radio report on Ambassador Murphy's meetings in Jerusalem. According to the DCM, they had listened to the report in Hebrew as they left the meeting and by the time they got to the consulate, they had the bureau's translation in hand.

Bureau provided to Ambassador Lewis and the public affairs officer the full transcript of the ambassador's interview on the 22 May Moqed program.

Hebrew section translated for Ambassador Lewis most of the 28 May 90-minute special Mabat Sheni ("Second Look") program on Lebanon, including an interview with Ari'el Sharon and a correspondent's report on an inquiry into the war. At the last Country Team meeting presided over by Ambassador Lewis, he went out of his way to thank FBIS for the "tremendous support" he had received in his 8 years in Israel. He was particularly pleased with the bureau's prompt handling of his request for the translation of portions of the Mabat Sheni program. He realized that this was outside the bureau's normal translation requirements, which made him appreciate the help even more. FBIS was one of only two sections singled out at this last meeting for special mention.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

A 15.5% percent COLA increase to FSN employees was granted effective 1 May.

STAT Teletypist [] resigned effective 3 May.✓

STAT Teletypist [] EOD'd on 6 May.✓

Teletypist [] EOD'd on 19 May.✓

STAT Bureau Engineer [] and Turkish Section Chief []✓

STAT [] received 30 and 10 year length of service pins, respectively.

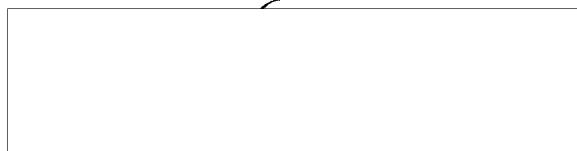
B. Building and Grounds

The construction company responsible for the erection of the Migdalor Building has announced a delay of 6 weeks, moving back the new bureau's occupancy date to 15 September. Meanwhile, the masts for the bureau's HF and television antennas were installed during the month, and work on running the antenna leads to the equipment room and from there to the various monitoring booths is proceeding apace. Most of the conduits and trays for the various telephone and data lines have been installed and the first painting of the interior walls has been completed. Workmen have been busy throughout the month connecting the York 35-ton supplemental HVAC unit to the 15th floor house system. The PTT has approved the type and location of the bureau's electronic telephone system, and the electronic workshop furniture incorporating some specially designed pieces has been selected. The date of 15 July has been set for completing the construction stage at which point FBIS technicians can begin positioning equipment and furniture at their permanent locations.

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STAT FBIS American women designed, appliqued and quilted the FBIS contribution to a patchwork quilt representing the main sections of the embassy for [] who has been more than just "the wife of", in appreciation for her significant contribution to the embassy community. The patch depicts the world with earphones attached and sound waves coming from the earphones.

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Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: a. Production Report
b. Communications Report

Tel Aviv Bureau Production Report for MAY 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	236550
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	64410
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	750

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	6298.00 min.	10520.00 min.	51.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

Clandestine Bavrak Radio in Turkish	9050
Clandestine Bavrak Radio in English	1050
Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian	10160
Clandestine Our Radio in Turkish	7210
Clandestine Voice of Turkish Communist Party in Turkish	17010

CYPRUS

Nicosia ANATOLIA in Turkish	0
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ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	67800	
Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	11020	
Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew	6580	
Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic	0	
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	15750	
Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew		5720
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English		2720

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Jerusalem KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew			0
Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English			10120
Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew			3010
Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in Hebrew			0
Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew			3950
Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew			12600
Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew			0
Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew			1180
Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew			1470
Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew			5480
Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew			5100
SOVIET UNION			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew	1370		
Moscow in Dari	2100		
TURKEY			
Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish	29860		
Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish		1550	
Ankara ANATOLIA in English		4310	
Ankara ANATOLIA in French		380	
UNITED KINGDOM			
London BBC World Service in English	0		

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR MAY 1985 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 236,550 (250,750)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 64,410 (76,420)
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 9,708 (10,906)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 17,740 on 21 May
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 1,780 on 4 May

2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 9.30 HOURS, 1.8 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 9.30 HOURS, 1.8 PERCENT.

OUTAGES: 1 May - Power failure in Embassy
2 May - [] Mux failure
8 May - Equipment failure at TCU
25 May - Equipment failure due to power failure
28 May - TCU equipment failure

3. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 830

NB. Figures from preceding month in Parentheses.